

D&H SYMPOSIUM II

**A Celebration of the History of the
Delaware and Hudson Canal Company,
with Special Emphasis on the D&H
Gravity Railroad from Carbondale to
Honesdale**

November 16-18, 2001

**Ladore Lodge and Conference Center
Waymart, PA**

Sponsored by

**The Carbondale Historical Society
The Waymart Area Historical Society
The Wayne County Historical Society
Far View Tracks to Trails
The D&H Transportation Heritage Council**

**To Commemorate
the 150th Anniversary of the
Incorporation of
the City of Carbondale, March 15, 1851
and
the Borough of Waymart, April 8, 1851**

Symposium Participants

Walter B. Barbe, Ph.D.

Chair of the Executive Committee of the
Dorflinger/Suydam Wildlife Sanctuary

Rodney Brown, Ph.D.

Trustee, Wayne County Historical Society and
Waymart Area Historical Society

Lynn Conrad, Project Manager

Rail-Trails Council of Northeastern
Pennsylvania

Stuart Dixon, Senior Architectural Historian

The Louis Berger Group, Inc.

Robert Hecht, Ph.D., Historian, Lecturer,

and Professor of History
Kingsborough Community College
City University of New York

Michael Knies, Special Collections Librarian

Weinberg Memorial Library
University of Scranton

Henry Loftus, Executive Director

Dorflinger/Suydam Glass Museum

Larry Lowenthal, Historian and Author

National Park Service, retired

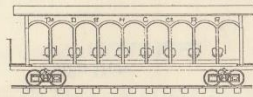
Lisa M. Lyons, Rivers & Trails Program

National Park Service

Lance E. Metz, Historian for the National

Canal Museum, Easton, PA

Gravity Car 43



D&H

Peter Osborne, Executive Director
Minisink Valley Historical Society

Rich Pawling, History Alive
Educational/Interpretive Specialist

Sherry L. Petrilak, Trails Specialist
Wildlands Conservancy

S. Robert Powell, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Carbondale Historical Society

Kurt Reed, Glass Historian and Archivist
Waymart Area Historical Society

Philip Ruth, Historian, Author, and Director of
Research, CHRS, Inc.

Donald M. Sayenga, Historian and Archivist
The Wire Association International

Jim Shaughnessy, Author and Photographer

Tom Supey, Mine Foreman
Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour

Jane Varcoe, Secretary/Treasurer
Waymart Area Historical Society

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Rod Brown, Barbara Holmes,
and **Jane Varcoe:** Waymart Area
Historical Society

S. Robert Powell: Carbondale Historical
Society and Museum

Sally Talaga: Wayne County Historical
Society and Museum

CONTACT PERSON

Jane Varcoe
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Program

All presentations in main auditorium.



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Ladore I

Friday, November 16, 2001

5:00-9:00 PM **Registration**

5:30-6:30 PM **Buffet Dinner**

Evening Session, 7:30-10:00 PM

Chair: Walter B. Barbe, Ph.D.

The Glass Industry Along the Canal

Kurt Reed and Henry Loftus

9:00-10:00 PM **Reception**

Refreshments and opportunity to meet
speakers. Authors will be available for
book signings.



Saturday, November 17, 2001

7:30 AM **Registration. Exhibits open.**

8:45-9:00 AM **Greetings**

Sandra Boguski, Vice President
Waymart Area Historical Society

Sally Talaga, Executive Director
Wayne County Historical Society

Ray Purvis, Director
The Salvation Army Ladore Lodge

Morning Session, 9:00 AM-12:15 PM

Chair: Rodney Brown, Ph.D.

9:00-9:45 AM **Overview of D&H Gravity
Railroad and Canal**
S. Robert Powell, Ph.D.

9:45-10:30 AM **Anthracite Mining in the
Lackawanna Valley**
Tom Supey

10:30-10:45 AM **Break**

10:45-11:30 AM **How the Delaware and
Hudson Canal and Its
Gravity Railroads Stim-
ulated the Wire Rope
Industry of the United
States**
Donald M. Sayenga

11:30-12:15 PM **A Ride on the D&H Gravity,
Courtesy of Photographer
Louis Hensel
Philip Ruth**

12:15-1:15 PM **Buffet Luncheon, Exhibits**

Afternoon Session, 1:15-5:30 PM
Chair: Peter Osborne

1:15-2:15 PM **Men Who Built the Delaware
and Hudson Canal Company**

James Archbald
Robert Hecht, Ph.D.

Philip Hone
Michael Knies

2:15-3:00 PM **Relections on the D&H Canal**
Larry Lowenthal

3:00-3:15 PM **Break**

3:15-3:45 PM **The D&H's Honesdale Branch,
Successor to its Gravity Railroad**
Stuart Dixon

3:45-4:30 PM **From Rails to Trails**

D&H and O&W Trails

Lynn Conrad

**Be Tenders with Us! Strategies for
Developing an Effective and Fun
Trail Maintenance Program**

Sherry L. Petrilak

**Current Trail Sections Open
on the D&H**

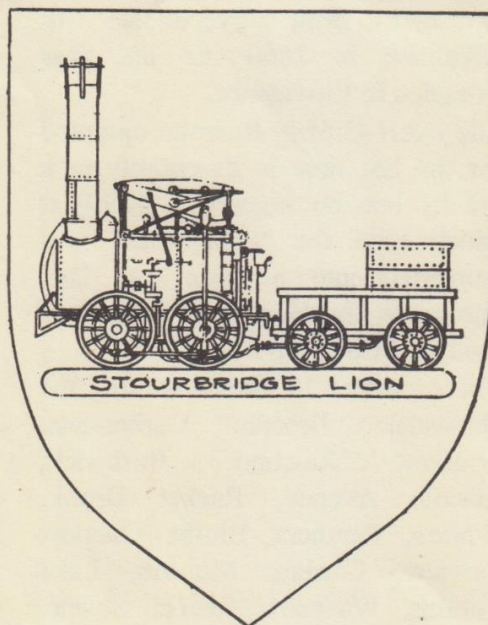
Lisa Lyons

4:30-5:30 PM **Roundtable Discussion**

**The Place of the D&H Gravity
Railroad and Canal in the
Industrialization of the US
Northeast**

Moderator: Lance Metz

Participants: Symposium Presenters



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Evening Session, 6:00-10 PM

Chair: Jane Varcoe

6:00-7:00 PM **Banquet**

7:15-8:00 PM **The Delaware & Hudson
Railroad: A Retrospective**
Jim Shaughnessy

8:00-9:00 PM **Fire in the Hole!**
A day in the life of Frank Kehoe,
a 1905 coal miner.
Presented by Rich Pawling
of *History Alive!*

9:00-10:00 PM **Reception**

**Birthday Celebration:
Carbondale and Waymart's
150th Birthdays**

Sunday, November 18, 2001

9:00 AM-12:00 PM **Museum and Historical
Sites Tour**

BUS TOUR: Waymart and Carbondale areas, with stops at Wayne County Historical Society Museum and Wayne County Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center (to see operating exhibit of D&H Gravity Railroad and Canal locks)



Inscription on PHMC
Historical Marker,
Gravity Park, Carbondale, PA

GRAVITY RAILROAD

Here began one of the first railroads in the Western Hemisphere, built 1828-29. The line had its eastern terminus at Honesdale; its southwestern terminus was later extended to Archbald and ultimately to Valley Junction near Olyphant. Built by the Delaware & Hudson to move coal to the D&H Canal, this line eventually provided passenger service and operated until the beginning of 1899.

Delaware and Hudson Gravity Railroad and Canal

- The D&H Gravity Railroad from Carbondale to Honesdale was opened on October 9, 1829. It was designed by John B. Jervis, and was the third rail system in the United States (the first was at Breed's Hill, MA; the second was at Jim Thorpe, PA). The 1829 road had strap rails, which were replaced on most of the system, in 1858, by iron T-rails.
- The 1829 roadbed consisted of Planes 1-5 from Carbondale to Rixe's Gap, Level 1 across the top of the mountain, Planes 6-7 from Farview to Waymart, Level 2 from Waymart to Prompton, Plane 8 at Prompton, Level 3 from Prompton to Honesdale. Chains were used on the planes from 1829 to 1831; hemp rope was used from 1831 to 1856; wire rope (invented by John Roebling) was installed on the planes in 1856 and was used until the Gravity Railroad closed in 1899.
- The first deep-shaft anthracite mine in America was opened at Carbondale by the D&H in 1831. By the mid-nineteenth century, more than a million tons of anthracite coal were being shipped annually by rail from Carbondale to Honesdale.
- One of the most famous locomotives in American History, the Stourbridge Lion (now in the Smithsonian Institution) was given its trial run on August 8, 1829, at Honesdale, with Horatio Allen as engineer. The

"Lion" was one of four locomotives imported from England by the D&H for use on the "levels" on the Gravity Railroad.

- The roadbed was reconfigured in 1841-43, 1856-58, and 1866-68. Scheduled passenger service was instituted on April 5, 1877.
- The gauge on the D&H Gravity Railroad was 51 inches (standard gauge is 56 1/2 inches).
- Anthracite coal from the mines in the Lackawanna Valley was loaded into canal boats at Honesdale, and shipped to Rondout on the Hudson River. The D&H Canal was 108 miles long, with 108 locks. It opened on October 16, 1828. On November 5, 1898, the last canal boat left Honesdale for the Hudson River.
- In 1843, the Gravity Railroad was extended from Carbondale to Archbald; in 1860 the line was extended to Providence.
- The D&H Gravity Railroad operated for the last time in its entirety as a gravity line on January 3, 1899, at which time the "light track" was converted into a steam rail line, known as the Honesdale Branch of the D&H Company.
- There were 19 stations on the Honesdale Branch: Carbondale, Lookout Junction, Bushwick, Lincoln Avenue, Racket Brook, White's, Panthers' Bluffs, Quigley, Farview, Canaan, Munson, Lake Lodore, Waymart, Keene, Steene, Prompton, Fortenia, Seelyville, and Honesdale. The Honesdale Branch closed on August 20, 1931.